

## Message Text

SECRET

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71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IGA-02 ACDA-19 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /159 W  
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R 121355 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHC 1835

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2372

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, SA, MU, YE

SUBJECT: IRANIAN INTEREST IN SAUDI ARABIAN ASSISTANCE FOR YAR  
AND OMAN

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI ASKED AMBASSADOR  
APRIL 11 FOR INFORMATION ON WHAT MILITARY AID SAUDI  
ARABIA IS PROVIDING OR CONSIDERING FOR OMAN AND YAR.  
HE SAID SAUDIS HAD NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE TO GOI PROPOSALS  
FOR EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE  
ADVISE WHAT WE CAN TELL GOI ABOUT SAUDI MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE TO OMAN AND YAR OR ALTERNATIVELY APPRECIATE  
HAVING JIDDA'S SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE CAN PROMOTE DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA ON THESE MATTERS.

1. DURING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR APRIL FOREIGN MINISTER  
KHALATBARI ASKED WHETHER WE COULD HELP CLARIFY TYPE OF  
MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHICH SAUDI ARABIA WAS PROVIDING  
YAR AND OMAN. HE WAS RAISING MATTER WITH US BECAUSE  
OF DIFFICULTIES GOI HAD ENCOUNTERED IN DEVELOPING ANY  
KIND OF WORTHWHILE DIALOGUE WITH SAUDI ARABIA ON THIS  
SUBJECT.

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2. REGARDING OMAN, KHALATBARI SAID THAT, AS WE KNEW, IRAN WAS PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR USE IN DHOFAR INSURGENCY. IN ORDER CONSIDER POSSIBLE FURTHER IRANIAN ASSISTANCE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHAT PLANS SAUDI ARABIA HAD. AMBASSADOR SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS CONCERNING ON MILITARY REQUIREMENTS OF YAR AND RELATIONS BETWEEN OMAN AND SAUDI ARABIA HAD ONLY RECENTLY IMPROVED TO POINT WHERE SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT ALSO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REQUEST FOR HELP FROM OMAN. HOWEVER WE WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT DIMENSIONS OF SAUDI AID FOR OMAN AND FUTURE INTENTIONS.

3. ON YAR KHALATBARI SAID PROBLEM WAS SIMILAR ALTHOUGH IN THIS CASE GOI FELT THAT IT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON NON-MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR NOW THAT DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH YEMEN. KHALATBARI FELT IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN MIGHT BE CRITICIZED BY ARABS AND THAT YAR SHOULD LOOK PRIMARILY TO SAUDI ARABIA AS ARAB STATE, NEIGHBOR AND WEALTHY COUNTRY FOR ITS MORE PRESSING MILITARY NEEDS. HOWEVER IF GOI COULD GET SOME REALISTIC FIX ON YEMEN'S MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN CONTEXT OF WHAT IT WAS RECEIVING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, MODEST AMOUNTS OF MILITARY HELP MIGHT BE CONSIDERED. IN THIS CONNECTION KHALATBARI RECALLED THAT GOI HAD SENT MILITARY MISSION TO SANAA TO INVESTIGATE YAR'S MILITARY NEEDS BUT MISSION'S WORK HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED DURING RECENT COOLING OF RELATIONS AND IF YEMEN THOUGHT IT USEFUL THIS MISSION COULD BE SENT BACK TO COMPLETE THE JOB. IN ANY EVENT GOI WOULD WELCOME ANY LIGHT WE COULD THROW ON SAUDIS' AID PLANS FOR YEMEN.

4. HAVING IN MIND OUR INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING MOVES TOWARDS REGIONAL COOPERATION ON SECURITY ARRANGMENTS, AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER IRAN HAD APPROACHED SAUDI ARABIA DIRECTLY. KHALATBARI SAID GOI WANTED TO DEVELOP THIS KIND OF EXCHANGE WITH SAUDIS AND HAD TRIED SEVERAL TIMES BUT SAUDIS HAD NEVER BEEN FORTHCOMING. HE WONDERED WHETHER NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF SAUDIS WAS DUE TO APATHY OR TO UNWILLINGNESS TO DEVELOP CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN. AMBASSADOR REMINDED KHALATBARI THAT AMBASSADOR THACHER WOULD BE HERE SHORTLY FOR COM CONFERENCE DURING WHICH THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY FOR FOREIGN MINISTER TO PUT QUESTION  
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TO AMBASSADOR THACHER. KHALATBARI SAID HE WOULD DO SO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON WHAT WE SHOULD TELL GOI ABOUT SAUDI ASSISTANCE TO OMAN AND YEMEN. IN REQUESTING THIS GUIDANCE WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE BEEN URGING US TO AVOID MIDDLEMAN ROLE IN SUCH MATTERS ON GROUNDS THAT COUNTRIES CONCERNED SHOULD DEAL WITH EACH OTHER DIRECTLY ON THESE PROBLEMS. AS ALTERNATIVE TO OUR SUPPLYING GOI WITH INFORMATION REQUESTED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE JIDDA' S THOUGHTS ON HOW DIRECT IRANIAN- SAUDI DIALOGUE COULD BE DEVELOPED.  
HELMS

SECRET

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